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FEB 13 1996

From: Sheryl Segal
To: 95-176
Date: 2/12/96 5:11pm
Subject: Chairman's Column Comments -Reply

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

>>> <feardog@mail.utexas.edu> 01/18/96 01:09am >>>
Thomas Clinton Field (feardog@mail.utexas.edu) writes:

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I agree that closed captioning furthers the goal of equitable access to broadcast material; however, the proposal that closed captioning should be a federal mandate is problematic. Despite the benevolent intentions of such an action, it would still entail federally mandated content in a telecommunications arena that has become increasingly active in circumventing government oversight through the assertion of first amendment rights. Also, such rules would be biased in favor of the large entertainment conglomerates. Three thousand dollars may not be significant to the budget of a \$400,000 an hour network television drama; however, it could cripple smaller production companies, not to mention the producers of community access television producers. It might also serve to crush the already struggling LPTV medium.

tcf

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: toyota.gslis.utexas.edu
Remote IP address: 128.83.248.29

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>>> <wycd99a@prodigy.com> 01/13/96 09:58am >>>
Dr Don Carpenter (wycd99a@Prodigy.com) writes:

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Mr Hunt..

Regarding your column on closed captioning.. There's a benefit to non-disabled persons such as myself that some television manufacturers have chosen to capitalize on.. and that's the ability to quickly and easily enable captioning through the "mute" button on remote controls. How nice it is when there's a phone call for my wife, and I can cancel the television volume for HER benefit, and still catch everything said on a program.

It's also a great help viewing videotapes when you simply can't understand the actor because of background noise, foreign accent or whatever. On-demand CC certainly solves this. I know such uses of CC technology probably weren't what the Commission had in mind.. but I thought you'd like to know we're ALL benefiting from it.

Regarding rulemaking involving Line 22. It already bothers me that certain signals are encoded into transmitted video that I, as an end user, have no way of decoding. I worry that Line 22 data transmissions would quickly become "subscription" services. I'm of the opinion that if a broadcaster transmits it, then it should be for the free unrestricted use of the public in the coverage area.

And, as long as I'm writing, is there some rule that prohibits the manufacture of automobile radios capable of receiving television audio?

Dr Don Carpenter
WYCD-FM
Detroit

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
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FEB 13 1996

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From: Sheryl Segal
To: 95-176
Date: 2/12/96 5:18pm
Subject: Chairman's Column Comments -Reply

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>>> <psmith@vunet.vinu.edu> 01/18/96 10:57am >>>
Phillip L. Smith (psmith@vunet.vinu.edu) writes:

I find the goal of every program being made available to hearing impaired citizens very noble. I agree that many national programs should be made available for these citizens. On a local level, however, this is not possible without government funding. What about the PBS stations that are already faced with cutbacks and even total elimination of funds. Our local PBS station is preparing to eliminate staff. Should mandates be made that would force additional payroll expenses when funds are being cut and payroll is being eliminated just to keep the lights on? Local programming should be exempted from forced closed captioning.

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From: Sheryl Segal
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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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>>> <netlink@netlinkcorp.com> 01/19/96 03:09pm >>>
Richard Hall (netlink@netlinkcorp.com) writes:

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I read with great interest about the goals of the FCC with regards to making the information superhighway (IS) accessible to disabled persons and most importantly, the disabled children. Our company is an internet provider in Bluefield, VA. We have been concerned about the ability to provide this access for the people you mentioned as well. Audio and Video are going to play a very important part on the Internet very soon and in some cases already do. There is one company Progressive Networks, Inc. that has developed a software that allows for audio on the Internet without downloading the sound. They are also in the process of using this audio player combined with video. Also there are more companies developing voice activated computer capability as well as touch pads. Once this becomes "widely" available, the (IS) will explode and allow access to anyone. The primary barrier obviously is cost. As a commercial for profit company, we are concerned about the ability or fairness to provide a service to the public. Our company provides not only a connection to the Internet but we also support our users when problems arise as they so often do with this kind of transfer of information. Plus, this technology is new to many people. Our company has taken the perspective that these people need to be taught and helped to overcome the problems encountered. Telephone companies and Schools are not setup for this kind of support and do a disservice to the technology by putting people on it without supporting them. Thank You For Allowing This Forum to Respond. Richard Hall
President, NET-LINK Corp. Bluefield, VA netlink@netlinkcorp.com

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: Remote IP address: 206.21.27.141

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FEB 13 1996 (FCC 95-484)

95-176

CC MAIL ROOM Date: 2-6-96

Address: The Office of the Secretary

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F.C.C.

1919 M St, NW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC:

Hello my name is Sara. I am from Asterisk in Russia. I live in New York and been here for two years now. I enjoy watching TV with close captioning because I need to read to improve my English language. Every day I watch TV always with close captioning because I am interested with ~~(close captioning)~~ any movies, news and programs that have close captioning. Please, make all a new programs with close captioning because now some news, movies and some programs don't have any. However, I want to make all programs to have close captioning.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

~~Sara Auto~~

My address: _____

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61-45 98th St

APT# 46 Rego Park
NY 11374.

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FEB 15 1996
School of Law

95-176

CC MAIL Arizona State University

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Box 877906

Tempe, AZ 85287-7906

602/965-6181 FAX: 602/965-2427

February 7, 1996

Re: In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of
Video Programming (FCC 95-484):

To whom it may concern:

As a deaf person, a lawyer and law professor, closed captioning on television is enormously important to me. Without closed captioning I am literally cut off from information that is crucial. By way of example, for the most part the trial of OJ Simpson was not captioned. As a law professor who teaches criminal law this was enormously frustrating, and harmful, to me. I was unable to watch portions of the trial that I should have been able to watch and discuss with my law students. To provide another example, the first set of congressional hearings relating to the confirmation of Justice Thomas was not captioned, nor was the last quarter of the second set of hearings. As a lawyer and law professor I found that enormously frustrating. I was literally cut off from information that my colleagues were discussing at length.

I urge you to ensure that all television programs are captioned (whether via real time captioning or advance captioning). Please ensure that no classes of video programs are exempted from captioning. We deaf people have the right to be a part of mainstream society to the same extent that others have that right. Please do not enact rules that have the effect of excluding us. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Bonnie Tucker

Bonnie P. Tucker
Professor of Law

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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128 West Cherry Street
Clyde OH 43410
February 08, 1996

Federal Communications
Office of Secretary
1919 M Street N W
Washington, D. C. 20554

REF: M M Docket # 95176

To Whom It May Concern,

Until recently I had a Second Audio receiver and now have a television with SAP. Is there anything in the future to block out the picture one receives when you have SAP on ?

I thank FCC for making this service available to one with impaired vision. I am receiving SAP through the Toledo Radio Reading Service.

Again thank you for providing this service.

Sincerely,

Arlyn Newhouse

Arlyn Newhouse

cc: file
Sight Center 1819 Canton Ave. Toledo OH 43624
Gary Hoffman, Director of Scan

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